

To Bruce

My dear Sir

I have just finished the perusal of your Introduction to the Leicester Correspondence with entire satisfaction & much admiration. I received it from W. Nichols last night, and I am greatly obliged by the opportunity then afforded me of contemplating a pleasure I was sure to receive at some time or other.

I can find nothing either to object to myself, or which I think

others, of nicer nose, will smell out
a fault in. What you say respecting
the origin of this interference
in favour of the protestants of the
Netherlands is spoken historically &
the facts, I apprehend, are indisputable.
What was complained of in W Wright's
introduction ^{was, first} that he went ^{a little} out of his
way to abuse, & next that his abuse
was somewhat more violent than
some thought called for. No such mis-
takes can be imputed to you; and
you write with the calmness of a
historian & with the discretion of a
lover of truth.

Let me mention that there
is one note which seems to me to
require some explanation. I may be
and very likely am quite wrong in
my notion, and I write the more
hesitatingly, because I am accidentally

at this moment without means of
reference. In the note on p xlii you
mention that in 1566 the great seal
was put to a warrant for the execu-
tion of Mary of Scotland. Is there not
some error of date here? According
to my memory, Mary was not in
the power of Elizabeth until some
time afterwards, and such a warrant
must have been a mere piece of
bravado; ^{in 1566} James I (or rather VI) was
not born until June ~~to~~ 1566. However
may allow for any ignorance and
blundering upon this point, for I
feel assured that I am wrong.

If the sheet be not worked
off, will you let Mr Frederic Ostry's
Christian name be spelt without
a k? he & his family have some
reason for being particular upon this
trifle.

Do not trouble yourself

31 March 1844

unmercifully
about the paper on Lord Leicester's
"play, Till." Of course you must wait
your convenience. I hope that you
have not sent the Shakespeare Papers
to the Pantheonicon - I mean those
which came thro Rodd, and which
you and I looked over at the Museum.

I am waiting with some
anxiety for your criticism on my
Biography of Shakespeare. You are
a man whose opinion (if favourable)
I covet, and (if unfavourable) fear.

Has Mr Angol sent you
some dozen papers or more for the
"Transactions of the Shakespeare Society?"
We are anxious to get a specimen,
at least, printed before the General
Meeting. I am, my dear Sir

Yours most sincerely

Victoria Road
Kennington

J. Payne Collier

31 March 1844.